

To: Smith, Roxanne[Smith.Roxanne@epa.gov]
Cc: Hart, Daniel[Hart.Daniel@epa.gov]; Morin, Jeff[Morin.Jeff@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Harrison, Melissa[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; EOC Public Information[EOC_Public_Information@epa.gov]; Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Fri 8/21/2015 7:22:27 PM
Subject: RE: GKM site and document releases

If they get signed off, they should be

From: Smith, Roxanne
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Purchia, Liz
Cc: Hart, Daniel; Morin, Jeff; Grantham, Nancy; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica; EOC Public Information; Gray, David; Hull, George
Subject: Re: GKM site and document releases

Do we know when photos wiill go up? Are they part of the package?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 21, 2015, at 2:43 PM, Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Just had our 2pm call. The plan is to finalize review of the documents that will be released in the next 2 hours.

After that, the goal is to get them posted and sent to congressionals, media.

Danny – I believe you’ve been in contact with Joan. As soon as those documents are ready, she’ll give you and whoever you deem necessary access to the sharepoint site.

EPA Posts Gold King Mine File Documents

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is committed to working closely with response agencies and state and local officials to ensure the safety of citizens, to respond to concerns and to evaluate impacts to water contaminated by the Gold King Mine release. As part of this effort, EPA announced today that it has made a number of Gold King Mine file documents related to the incident on August 5, available to the public. These include the EPA Task Order, technical memo, and the contractor's Action/Work Plan and its Site Health and Safety Plan for the Gold King Mine site.

The independent review announced this week by the U.S. Department of the Interior will analyze the incident, including the contributing causes. These documents, the independent review and EPA's internal technical examination of the incident being conducted will provide greater understanding of the incident.

Gold King Mine file documents: [LINK](#)

Background on the Gold King Mine

EPA activities at the Gold King Mine site were to address the risk of blow out identified by EPA and the State of Colorado by taking actions to relieve pressure build up from historic construction operations at the interconnected mines by the previous mining operator. This work included improving site access, stabilizing the mine structure, controlling water and metal precipitate, and treating surge water as necessary.

The Gold King Mine had not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed. This condition likely caused impounding of water behind the collapse and other collapses within the workings may have occurred creating additional water impounding conditions.

The Upper Animas Watershed, where the Gold King Mine is located, contains an estimated 400 abandoned and inactive mine sites, which were the focus of both large- and small-scale mining operations between 1871 and 1991. As a result, the Animas River and many of its tributaries have been historically impacted by high concentrations of heavy metals from both acid rock/mine drainage at mine sites and from naturally occurring metal loading sources not impacted by mining.

EPA and the State of Colorado, have been working together since the 1990's to assess water quality impacts in the Upper Animas River and its tributaries from mining related heavy metals. Numerous mine reclamation and mine waste cleanup projects have been completed in the watershed over the last 20 years. These efforts have included diverting runoff away from and capping mine waste piles, moving mine waste piles away from drainages, consolidating mine waste piles and revegetating mine waste piles.

Additional information

- [History of the Gold King Mine](#)
- [Updates on the Gold King Mine response](#)

From: Hart, Daniel

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 10:06 AM

To: Purchia, Liz; Morin, Jeff; Grantham, Nancy; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica; EOC Public Information; Gray, David; Smith, Roxanne; Hull, George

Subject: RE: GKM site and document releases

Liz, can we talk about what the docs are and think through how best to present them on the site?

After the 10am call are you available?

Daniel (Danny) Hart | Acting Director of Web Communications | Office of Public Affairs | U.S. EPA
| [Tel:202.564.7577](tel:202.564.7577) | cell: 202.365.7095

From: Purchia, Liz

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 9:58 AM

To: Morin, Jeff; Hart, Daniel; Grantham, Nancy; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica; EOC Public Information; Gray, David; Smith, Roxanne; Hull, George

Subject: GKM site and document releases

I'm told that later today we would like to make several documents public related to the GKM. They are going through review with R8, OGC, OSWER and others.

I am working on a statement with them that we will need to send to press and post on the web. I'm told that at some point today R8 will be sending us the PDF documents that will need to get posted.

There's a mtg at 2pm today where I am hopeful we will then soon be able to make these documents public.

Liz

Liz Purchia

Deputy Associate Administrator, Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202-564-6691

Cell: 202-841-2230

